ANCIENT LANDMARKS

ASHISH RAICHUR

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION ONLY
Printed and Distributed by All Peoples Church & World Outreach, Bangalore, INDIA.
First Edition Printed: January 2004
Revised Digital Edition: July 2021

Contact Information:
All Peoples Church & World Outreach,
319, 2nd Floor, 7th Main, HRBR Layout,
2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar,
Bangalore 560043 Karnataka, INDIA

Phone: +91-80-25452617
Email: bookrequest@apcwo.org
Website: **apcwo.org**

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:
Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.
Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., L.L.D. Published in 1890; public domain.
Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN.

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP
Free distribution of this book has been made possible through the financial support of members, partners, and friends of All Peoples Church. If you have been enriched through this free book, we invite you to contribute financially to help with the printing and distribution of free books from All Peoples Church. Please visit **apcwo.org/give** or see the page "Partner With All Peoples Church" at the back of this book, on how to make your contribution. Thank you!

MAILING LIST
To be notified when free books are released from All Peoples Church, you may subscribe to our mailing list at **apcwo.org**

ANCIENT LANDMARKS

Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls."

Jeremiah 6:16

CONTENTS

1. THE WORLD AROUND US IS CHANGING 1
2. WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING ACROSS CHRISTENDOM 4
3. WHAT ARE ANCIENT LANDMARKS? 6
4. OUR ANCIENT LANDMARKS 10
5. ANCIENT LANDMARKS FOR THE WORKPLACE 15
6. CALL FOR COMMITMENT 21

1. THE WORLD AROUND US IS CHANGING

"Ancient Landmarks" is a message that I have been carrying in my heart for some time, which I now share with you through this book. This is probably the kind of message that I would preach as one of my final messages, when passing on the baton to the next generation that would continue the race from where I leave. This message primarily addresses the urban church in a cosmopolitan city, like Bangalore, and may not be immediately relevant for readers in small towns or villages in India.

Changes In The Way We Live

If we draw a comparison between us adults (those 25+) and the millennial generation (those born between 1984 and 2001), there are many things we can list that contrast the worlds we grew up in:

- We had one black and white TV and one channel—Doordarshan. The millennials grew up with Pogo, NBC, MTV, Star World, and so on. The world of media is changing. The millennials thrive on media.
- We grew up with spools and records. They grew up with DVDs, MP4 players, and iPods. Most of them have never even seen a record. We grew up with Ambassadors, Premier Padminis, Marutis, Tata, Birla, and so on. They grew up with Hondas, Toyotas, BMWs, Microsoft, IBM, Google, and so on.
- We grew up with Thumbs up, Bajal, and Fanta. They grew up with Coke, Diet Coke, and Pepsi.
- We had coffee at the local "Meals Ready" Kamat restaurant. They have coffee at Café Coffee Day.
- If we had one dial phone at home, it was a big thing. Neighbors sometimes visited us to make phone calls. They are growing up with PDAs, SMS, and so on. Most of them have never dialed a phone and may never do!
- I never worked on a computer until college, and made my first PowerPoint presentation with great difficulty when I was in my 20s. Joshua, my son, did animated presentations in PowerPoint when he was a 10-year-old, downloading music onto his MP4 player, searching on Google, and doing research on Wikipedia. Ruth, my daughter who was a seven-year-old then was not too far behind, learning from her brother!
- When we played, our friends were the kids on our streets. Today's teens live in a global community connected by instant messaging, blogs, online communities like Facebook, Instagram, twitter, and other social networking sites. They can play games

or chat with friends halfway across the world!

The world our teenagers and kids are growing up in—the world in which we are in now—is vastly different from the world we grew up in. Teenagers and kids are the natives—they grew up or are growing up in this new world! We are immigrants in this new world.

Changes In Our City

Wages

Earlier, after five and a half years of intense study and possibly a few more years of specialization, a doctor earned a starting salary of perhaps Rs.3,000. Later, a college dropout working in a call center could earn close to Rs.15,000!

Supermarkets to Shopping Malls

When we were growing up, we normally did our shopping at the local supermarket or shopping complex that did not have much to talk about. No air-conditioning, elevators, or escalators. Today, our city has air-conditioned, multi-storied shopping malls with international brands being readily available.

In addition to these, we see numerous changes in lifestyle, perspectives on life, and so on.

Changes In Worldview: Modernism And Post-Modernism

Sociologists tell us that in the last 40 years, more so in the recent decade, the culture or worldview globally is steadily shifting or has shifted from a “modern” to a “post-modern” thought. Most of us grew up in a modern world. Our teenagers and kids are growing up in a “post-modern” worldview.

Modernism

Modernism began with enlightenment. Scientific method was the norm. It was understood that through science and intellectual integrity, world problems could be solved. Truth was objective. Truth was self-evident. Things were black and white. The downside to modernism was individualism and self-centeredness.

Post-Modernism

Relativity, and not reason, is the norm. “There are no facts, only interpretations” (Friedrich Nietzsche). Morality is a relative thing. You make up your own moral standards

that you wish to live by. You are free to express, and no one can tell you that you are wrong. Personal experience overrides the power of empirical evidence and objective truth. Tolerance is the way, even when truth is compromised. God is whoever you want Him to be.

Our teenagers and kids are growing up in a challenging world. They are presented with so many options to choose from, even for the most important things in life: beliefs, values, and lifestyles.

2. Winds Of Change Blowing Across Christendom

Changes In The Way We Do Church

We have seen several shifts in Christendom. For example, we have gone from churches meeting in stained glass, steeple buildings to air-conditioned auditoriums, convention centers, and so on. In the songs we sing, we have transitioned from hymns to choruses to contemporary songs of praise and worship. We have also gone from using hymnbooks to chorus sheets to overhead projectors to LCD projectors on large screens to LCD walls. Presentations in services have now extended from dramas/skits/musicals to videos and short films.

Changes In The Message Being Preached

On the positive side, we have seen an increasing understanding of the Word of God. Starting from the Reformation of the 1400s with Martin Luther, we have come a long way, especially in the last 50 years. The Word of God is being made relevant to all walks of life. And yet there are dangerous things happening in pulpits around the world. Pastors and preachers, in an effort to attract and keep large crowds, have gone from preaching the uncompromised Word of God to post-modern philosophy, feel-good messages, motivational pump-you-up speeches which are nothing more than Sunday morning psycho-babble, and so on. The Word in such pulpits is no longer a double-edged sword, a hammer, or a fire, but a soothing massage to the soul and a comfortable couch to lie on! They refuse to confront sin or lead people to confession of sin. They do not want to talk about the reality of heaven or hell! These are not the kind of messages they would preach, lest the numbers dwindle.

Changes In The Delivery Of The Message

In the information age we are in, two things characterize the millennial generation and the people in general:

- They no longer want to only listen; they want to have all their senses involved. They do not want a sermon but want an experience that results in transformation.
- Ironically, with increasing information, we see a shortening of the attention span!

On the positive side, we see an increasing number of churches and preachers delivering timeless truths in a way that engages all the senses and creates an experience that

transforms. Technology and creativity play a big role in this. All of this is good. And yet, on the other hand, the focus seems to have shifted so much to doing and presenting things creatively that we have lost some of the ancient landmarks of “Holy Spirit power” and the God-ordained approach of miracles, signs, and wonders—the demonstration of the supernatural. We end up with services that entertain the soul, which thousands come to enjoy but deprive them of the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit that transforms, heals, and delivers. We risk having our pulpits dominated by event managers, entertainers, orators, dramatists, and performers instead of anointed apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists.

3. WHAT ARE ANCIENT LANDMARKS?

Proverbs 22:28
Do not remove the ancient landmark (boundary lines) which your fathers have set.

Proverbs 23:10
Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless.

According to John Gill's Exposition of the entire Bible, "the ancient landmark" refers to "the ancient border" or "boundary" (n); by which lands, estates, and inheritances, were marked, bounded, and distinguished; set by ancestors in agreement with their neighbors; which to remove was contrary to a law, and a curse is denounced upon those that did it, and was always reckoned a very heinous crime in early times; this was so sacred a thing among the Romans, that they had a deity which presided over those bounds, and had its name from them.

Deuteronomy 19:14
You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

Deuteronomy 27:17
'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Hosea 5:10
The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out My wrath on them like water.

The leaders themselves were guilty of moving the ancient landmarks and they earned the judgment of God. While we know that the term "ancient landmarks" and the Scripture passages quoted earlier deal with literal boundaries on property, I would like to translate this to spiritual things and use this as a backdrop for this book.

Ancient landmarks are boundaries set by previous generations that indicate:

- Safe areas to walk in and forbidden areas not to walk in.
- Possible deception that would take you into forbidden areas.

In a changing world, we must remember, there are ancient landmarks we must not move. There are sacred boundaries we must not cross. There are godly traditions we must not lose.

Godly Traditions We Must Not Lose

While it is true that there are man-made traditions that are useless and must be broken, there are godly, biblical traditions that must be maintained. These are timeless.

Man-Made Traditions

We are free to discard man-made traditions that bring no benefit to our walk with God. Man-made traditions nullify the Word of God in our lives and lead us into a place of deception and bondage.

Mark 7:13
Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.

Colossians 2:8
Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Godly Traditions

However, we must also understand that there are godly traditions which we must retain.

1 Corinthians 11:2
Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:15
Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6
But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

Being Relevant

Having understood that there are ancient landmarks that must be maintained, sacred boundaries that we must not cross, godly traditions that we must not lose, we now arrive at a very interesting issue, that of relevance.

How can we be relevant in a changing culture, in a new world and yet maintain ancient landmarks?

As Christian adults, we struggle with the culture of the new world we find ourselves in. Added to the fact that we grew up in a world with a drastically different worldview and culture, we now do not know how to apply Scriptures such as:

What does it mean to be in the world and yet be "*not of the world*" (John 17:14–18)? How do we stay relevant to the world and yet "*not be conformed to the world*" (Romans 12:1-2)? How do we connect with the world and yet not have friendship with the world (James 4:4)? How do we enjoy everyday life and still protect ourselves, so as to not love the world (1 John 2:15–17)? These are issues that we struggle with.

We know we cannot stay out of the world because we have been sent into the world. What do we do with the culture of the new world that we find ourselves in? How do we respond to the world? What do we teach our teenagers and kids as they grow up in a new world, whose culture is changing and whose culture we are not so familiar with?

- If we disconnect from the culture of the new world, we will not be able to influence, improve, or transform it.
- If we fully adapt to the culture of the new world, we will not be able to change what is wrong in it.
- We must explore, understand, and employ the changing culture of the new world to explain and establish timeless truths and principles.

A culture is neither good nor bad. Rather every culture contains good and bad elements that must be discerned and wisely dealt with. Here is what Paul said as he communicated the heart of God:

1 Corinthians 9:19–23
19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;
20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;
21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;
22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.
23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

The Scriptures quoted from 1 Corinthians 9 are probably the most important passages that teach us about being relevant to our audience—becoming all things to all men. Becoming like unto those we are ministering to. If Paul found it necessary in his time, I am sure we must do so too!

1 Corinthians 10:32-33
32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,
33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they

may be saved.

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 must be understood in the light of what Apostle Paul discussed earlier in 1 Corinthians 9:19–23. Paul's reason to please all men in all things was not for personal gain or to draw people to himself, but to lead them to faith in Christ.

Relevance is using what is cultural to say what is timeless. We must use what is cultural to say what is timeless - Reggie Joiner, Founder of FamilyWise.

The world is changing. What worked yesterday, may not work today! We need to adapt to the new world. We need to present eternal truths using symbols and language that are part of the culture of the new world. And yet there are dangers in doing so, that we must be aware of. We cannot take things randomly from culture and use them to communicate timeless truths. We cannot compromise on ancient landmarks in our effort to use, engage, and employ the culture of the new world.

4. OUR ANCIENT LANDMARKS

I would like to address some of the winds of change that have been blowing through several important areas of life and remind us of our ancient landmarks in these areas:

- Personal life and character,
- Marriage and family,
- The workplace,
- Church life and
- Ministry.

There are some winds that are blowing, which we need to adjust and adapt our sails to and go where the wind is blowing, lest we get left behind and become disconnected from the present new world. And then, there are some winds of change that are blowing in a direction that would make us cross sacred boundaries and lose godly traditions. We must learn to navigate through these winds of change, using the ancient landmarks to anchor us through the storms.

It is not my intent to address all areas of change and all areas of life in this book. My intention is to transmit enough wisdom and understanding, so that we will know how to respond to the winds of change that are blowing or that may come upon us in the years ahead. I want us to be able to stay within the ancient landmarks—not cross sacred boundaries and lose godly traditions.

Not only do I desire for us to have the ability to properly respond to change, but I also wish to challenge us to carry these ancient landmarks into our world—so that we can change those areas of our world that are disintegrating because of the winds of change. Imagine a people who live by ancient landmarks, sacred boundaries, and godly traditions in the realm of business, government, education, sports, media, entertainment, fashion, and everywhere else. We will truly be salt and light in our world!

My call here is simply this: STAY WITH THE BIBLE. The Bible IS our Ancient Landmark!

Truth is not relative. Truth is absolute. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). God's instructions to us are not relative. They are absolute. We do not get to vote on what God meant! God said what He meant and meant what He said. We follow what He said.

Ancient Landmarks For Personal Life And Character

Holiness

1 Peter 1:14–16
14 As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;
15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Hebrews 12:14
Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

To be holy is to be "set apart for God." It means I belong to God. So, everything I say and do must represent God, must be godly, and manifest godliness.

We must judge the things we say, do, wear, and so on, by this standard. And yet, our standards of holiness are not intended to isolate us from people who do not have the same standards. We need to be able to relate to them, without being influenced by them.

Remember that Jesus was extremely comfortable sitting and eating with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:11). This means I can wear what they wear to some extent, smell like them, look like them, and yet not lose out on personal standards of holiness before God.

Holiness is an ancient landmark regardless of which part of the world we live in and regardless of which culture we adhere to!

God's standards for holiness are absolute. They are the same for all His children, regardless of whichever part of the world we live in and the culture we operate in. As believers, we cannot define our own moral standards. They have been defined for us in the Word of God. We must beware of the post-modern philosophy of moral relativism that has crept into the church, to the point where some preach and teach that we define our own moral standards and that standards of holiness differ from culture to culture. This cannot be! The Bible reads the same in any part of the world and God says the same thing to all His children!

Women, please remember that the way you dress must demonstrate two important things—modesty and godliness.

1 Timothy 2:9-10
9 In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,
10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

I realize that some may argue that modesty in dressing is defined differently in different cultures. They would say what one culture considers immodest would be perfectly fine in another culture. My response would be two-pronged. First, the Scriptures call for women to focus on beautifying and showing off "*the hidden person of the heart*" (1 Peter 3:4a) which is very precious in the sight of God. So regardless of culture, this is what a believing woman's focus must be. Secondly, be modest within the context of the culture you are living in.

Integrity

Proverbs 10:9
He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.

We cannot compromise on integrity and honesty in any area of our lives. This is a boundary we do not move—regardless of how demanding the circumstances may be.

Hard Work

Proverbs 10:4
He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

We sometimes get enamored by the instant successes that people have. Mark Zuckerberg, a 23-year-old Harvard dropout, founder of Facebook.com, known as the star of the second web boom, is worth over 15 million and more at the time of writing this book. With just one good idea and in just about four years, he had experienced almost instant success!

Hearing and seeing stories of instant successes sometimes sways us into a position where we go looking for an easy way out. Hard work does not seem relevant anymore. But the "ancient landmark" says that you become poor if you have a slack hand. It is the diligent that see success.

Do you know that it is said that Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro, works for an average of 80 hours a week? When considering anyone to be a part of his team, one of his questions is, "How many hours a week do you put in?" Anyone desiring to work directly with the chairman must be willing to work 60–70 hours a week! I am not encouraging all of us to go overboard with our work, but I want us to understand that success is not cheap!

Priorities

Our priorities are constantly challenged in a world where the view is that everything is relative and subject to interpretation.

Mark 12:29–31 and Matthew 6:33 still read the same and are the ancient landmarks for priorities we must maintain in life.

Mark 12:29-31
29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.
31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Matthew 6:33
But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

For us as believers, our love for God and pursuing Kingdom purposes top the list even above personal comforts, personal ambitions, and so on.

In a world where a man's worth is measured purely by what he owns, we understand that who we are is more important than the things we have!

Luke 12:15
Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Testimony

We need to maintain our testimonies, always. Our testimonies are what our lives—our actions, attitudes, and behaviors—are speaking to those around us, even when we do not speak a word. We must make every effort to maintain a testimony that is above reproach—live a life that no one can find fault with. The way we live must show the praises of the One whom we follow (1 Peter 2:9).

Ancient Landmarks For Marriage And Family

Marriage

Hebrews 13:4
Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

As believers we understand that marriage is an institution ordained by God. It is a life-long covenant. This is an ancient landmark that we do not move. For those dating, remember that you are not married until you are married! You cannot exercise the privileges of the married, before stepping into the responsibility of marriage. For those married, remember that your marriage was designed for two and only two. Maintain the

inner circle.

Family

The family is God's design. When you are ministering to your family, you are fulfilling a God-appointed ministry, very similar to any other God-ordained ministry (preaching, prophesying, or working miracles). Therefore, ministry to one's family is an ancient landmark that we do not do away with. We make it a priority to invest in our families.

While we believe in the larger community that we as believers are part of (the local church), which is also designed by God, we must be careful to know where the lines are drawn. We cannot allow the family to dissolve into the larger church community.

Honoring Parents

Proverbs 1:8-9
8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother;
9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

To honor, respect, and serve our parents may seem old-fashioned. As believers, we are instructed in God's Word to honor our parents (Ephesians 6: 1–3). This is a godly tradition we must not discard.

5. Ancient Landmarks For The Workplace

The same ancient landmarks that we discussed for personal life and character also apply to the workplace. Carry these ancient landmarks into your professional world. Do not allow the culture of the new world to cause you to compromise these ancient landmarks.

Freedom

Today, we use all kinds of methods and nomenclature in the workplace to make employees feel part of the organization—and not just as "workers." We want people to be free and still perform. And many times, employees misunderstand freedom to mean lack of discipline.

Freedom is not lack of discipline. Freedom is not lack of accountability. It is not about deciding when you should come and go from the office, how much you pay yourself, how much you spend on personal expenses and bill it to the company, it is not about you deciding on which hotel you want to stay—none of these represent freedom in the workplace. Any good organization needs boundaries and guidelines for all these areas, otherwise there would be chaos. True freedom in the workplace is about having enough room for you to use all your capabilities to create greater value for your organization, without unnecessary constraints or interferences. It is about having the privilege to share creative ideas, set goals, and determine ways of meeting those goals.

Ephesians 6:7
With goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

Moral Relativism And Situational Ethics

Business and personal values are being challenged in the workplace, by a post-modern worldview that believes in moral relativism and situational ethics. Right and wrong, black and white have disintegrated into shades of gray. Values, ethics, and integrity are compromised for profit, right connections, and quick successes.

The ancient landmark still reads:

Proverbs 10:9
He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.

Professionals, we must influence our world and not merely be influenced by it. I wish to

challenge you. Make a difference; do not merely make a living!

Ancient Landmarks For Church Life

Music

Contemporary music is not wrong. It is great to have godly songs with music that the new generation connects with. And yet we must be careful about songs that elevate the music above experiencing God.

Deuteronomy 31:19
Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.

One of the reasons God wanted songs to be written is to teach His people and put His Word in their mouths, as a constant reminder of Him and what He has done. We need to evaluate contemporary songs from this ancient landmark. Does a song help achieve God's intent?

Also, let us not neglect the grand old hymns of the faith. These are hymns full of theology, expressing the faith.

Ephesians 5:19
speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

We need everything—psalms, hymns, and Gospel songs—as expressions of our making melody to the Lord!

Discipline

Most pastors today are afraid to use the shepherd's rod. Every shepherd not only leads his sheep to green pastures and beside quiet waters, but also needs a rod and staff to guide and protect his sheep.

In the medical world we have what is called "palliative care," for those who are terminally ill. The idea is to make their final days as comfortable as possible. This is great for those who are suffering physically. However, the Church cannot provide palliative care for those in sin and on the verge of falling short of the grace of God (Hebrews 12:15). There is no use if we make them comfortable here on earth only to help them spend eternity in hell. I would rather that we take out the knife and help them go through the uncomfortable process of "cutting off" the right eye or the right hand that is causing them to sin (Matthew 5:29-30). Church allow your pastor to be a real shepherd. Allow him to use his

rod and staff, for without that he will not be able to guide, correct, and protect the sheep.

1 Corinthians 4:21
What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

We believe in abundance of grace, but we also believe in godly discipline. Let us not sacrifice adherence to godly living in the name of grace. Neither should we go overboard on discipline and forget that without the grace of God, none of us would ever make it!

Submission to Leadership

In the post-modern world, "respect," "honor," "submission," and "obedience" are treated as bad words! And this attitude has crept into the church.

Here is the ancient landmark:

Hebrews 13:17
Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Ancient Landmarks For Ministry

Clothing

We have gone a long way from preachers with priestly robes to wearing suits or casual clothes behind the pulpit. Do not judge preachers just by their clothing. They could be sheep in wolves' clothing! What is important is their life, character, the integrity of their message, and the anointing they release! There is nothing wrong in casual clothing so long as we maintain ancient landmarks in ministry!

Manners

I am concerned with what I see in certain areas of Christendom today. In an effort to be cool and casual, preachers and ministers actually belittle moral standards in ministry. Can you imagine a preacher standing in the pulpit and talking about how many times he has sex with his wife each week—just to look cool before his congregation! In an effort to be cool, we have lost the sacredness of the pulpit to loose language, cheap jokes, and a lot of other weak things.

A man who has been divorced four times from the time he first began his ministry and who is presently in his fifth marriage, continues as a pastor and preacher with a television ministry. Why do we tolerate this?

The ancient landmark for those in ministry and spiritual leadership is this:

1 Timothy 3:1-5
1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;
3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;
4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence
5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

It seems like in Christendom, we have become negligent of these standards which are God-given prerequisites to those in ministry. It is true that ministers are mere mortals and yet God has set the standards that He expects of us. These are ancient landmarks that we cannot violate!

A solemn warning from Apostle Paul:

Paul said, "*For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ*" (2 Corinthians 2:17).

What does it mean to peddle the Word of God? It means to mix the Word, to adulterate it with moral relativism (no absolutes), post-modern philosophy, humanism, and other "feel-good" ideas, to make it palatable to our audiences! And this seems to be happening in pulpits around the world. It is not that some preachers are not using the Bible and quoting Scripture. But in an effort to be relevant to the new world, some end up peddling the Word to an audience that wants to hear us tell them the things they want to hear!

2 Timothy 4:2-4
2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

We cannot evaluate the validity of a message by the number of people who subscribe to it. Any good orator can draw a crowd. The only way to judge a message is to evaluate it in the light of the uncompromised Word of God.

Jesus did not soft-pedal the Kingdom message. His altar call was: "…*take up your cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23).

John 6:66-67
66 that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.
67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

Many people left Jesus until only the 12 disciples remained, and Jesus asked them if they would go away too.

You would have thought Jesus failed in the message He preached, because His audience deserted Him after He preached. (You cannot judge a message by the negative reactions of people either—what if they just do not like to be told the truth?) And yet we know that crowds came after Him because His Word was the pure Word of the Father and He did the works of the Father!

In our message, we must maintain the ancient landmark of preaching the uncompromised, unadulterated Word of God!

Methods

The ancient landmark for method in ministry is to preach the Gospel with signs, wonders, and miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus did and this is what He taught us to do. The Gospels contain more accounts of Jesus working miracles than speaking parables.

In fact, Jesus said:

John 10:37-38
37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;
38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:4-5
4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

This is our ancient landmark, and this is what we need to use to measure contemporary preaching. Do not allow skillful oratory and grand multimedia presentation fool you into thinking that this is all there is to ministering God's Word. Jesus is our standard! He said that the preaching of the Word must be accompanied by miracles and supernatural signs. This is the best "transformational experience" we can give people when they come to church—to encounter the supernatural in demonstration!

This is the direction that we as a church must move into. This is where we must go!

While it is not wrong to employ technology and creative ways of communicating timeless

truths, my concern is that somewhere along the way we are losing focus of the Kingdom, with no depth in God and instead, moving into frivolous marketing and sleazy salesmanship, to attract and keep the crowds. We are becoming persona-centric rather than being focused on the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We must be rigidly righteous in our motives and methods in ministry. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things, we commend ourselves as ministers of God (2 Corinthians 6:3-4).

As ministers of God, let us remain true to our calling—to preach the Word in the power of God's Holy Spirit with supernatural demonstrations. Anything else we employ is only to help us build a bridge to people's hearts and must not supplant ancient landmarks.

APC Pastors and Ministry Leaders are committed to presenting the complete, uncompromised Word of God in the anointing and demonstration of His Holy Spirit. We believe that good music, creative presentations, brilliant apologetics, contemporary ministry techniques, or latest technology can never substitute the God-ordained approach of proclaiming the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Hebrews 2:3-4).

Our theme is Jesus, our content is the Word, our method is Holy Spirit power, our passion is people, and our goal is Christlike maturity.

6. Call For Commitment

- Commit yourself to living by the ancient landmarks.
- Commit yourself to having your foundations deep in God and His Word. God and His Word are timeless. God's Word must be the scale by which you weigh everything and to see if something is really worth investing your life in; the ruler by which you work out your metrics to see if something really measures up to godly standards; the lens through which you see, to discern what is right and wrong. Do not allow the winds of change that are blowing to cause you to compromise the ancient landmarks.
- Remember there are sacred boundaries that must not be crossed. There are godly traditions that must be continued
- Commit yourself to carrying these ancient landmarks into "your" world.
- Adapt and adjust to winds of change that are useful. In all other areas, live by the ancient landmark!
- Accurately transmit the ancient landmarks.

To the present generation I urge you, commit yourself to living, speaking, and behaving in a manner that accurately represents what Christian life is all about. The life we live is the message we transmit to the succeeding generation. This present generation must ensure that the succeeding generation continues to build within the ancient landmarks. The Law of Genesis states that we reproduce after our own kind—we reproduce what we are.

I wish I could speak to the next generation and teach them how to sift through all the information that is bombarding their minds, to discern right from wrong. I wish I could speak to the next generation and teach them how to stay within the ancient landmarks. I wish I could speak to the next generation and teach them how to receive the torch correctly—without the voice of rebellion (not making the same mistake that Absalom made) and without the voice of immaturity (not making the same mistake that Rehoboam made). But then their responses are something we can shape through our examples, if we, this present generation, will live within the ancient landmarks!

Go higher and deeper in God, but do not violate the ancient landmarks that have been set!

Partner with All Peoples Church

All Peoples Church ministers beyond its own borders as a local church by reaching out all across India, especially North India, with a special focus on (A) Strengthening Leaders, (B) Equipping young people for ministry and (C) Building up the Body of Christ. Several training seminars for young people, and Christian Leaders conferences are held throughout the year. In addition, several thousands of copies of books are distributed free of cost in English and other Indian languages with the purpose of equipping believers in the Word and in the Spirit.

We invite you to partner with us financially by sending either a one-time gift or a monthly financial gift. Any amount that you can send to help us in this work across our nation will be greatly appreciated.

You can send your gift by cheque / bank draft payable to "All Peoples Church" to our office address. Else you can remit your contribution directly by bank transfer using our bank account details.

Account Name: All Peoples Church
Account Number: 0057213809
IFSC Code: CITI0000004
Bank: Citibank N.A., No. 5, M.G. Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001

Kindly note: All Peoples Church can only accept bank contributions from an India based bank account. When making your contribution, if desired, you can indicate the specific APC ministry area where you would like your contribution to be used. For additional details please visit ***apcwo.org/give***

Also, please remember to pray for us and our ministry whenever you can. **Thank You and God Bless!**

FREE PUBLICATIONS

A Church in Revival*
A Real Place Called Heaven
A Time for Every Purpose
Ancient Landmarks*
Baptism in the Holy Spirit
Being Spiritually Minded and Earthly Wise
Biblical Attitude Towards Work
Breaking Personal and Generational Bondages
Change*
Code of Honor
Divine Favor*
Divine Order in the Citywide Church
Don't Compromise Your Calling*
Don't Lose Hope
Equipping the Saints
Foundations (Track 1)
Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Giving Birth to the Purposes of God*
God Is a Good God
God's Word—The Miracle Seed*
How to Help Your Pastor
Integrity
Kingdom Builders
Laying the Axe to the Root
Living Life Without Strife*
Marriage and Family
Ministering Healing and Deliverance
Offenses—Don't Take Them
Open Heavens*
Our Redemption
Receiving God's Guidance
Revivals, Visitations and Moves of God
Shhh! No Gossip!
Speak Your Faith *
The Conquest of the Mind
The Father's Love
The House of God
The Kingdom of God
The Mighty Name of Jesus *
The Night Seasons of Life
The Power of Commitment*
The Presence of God
The Redemptive Heart of God
The Refiner's Fire
The Spirit of Wisdom, Revelation and Power*
The Wonderful Benefits of speaking in Tongues
Timeless Principles for the Workplace
Understanding the Prophetic
Water Baptism
We Are Different*
Who We Are in Christ
Women in the Workplace
Work Its Original Design

PDF versions of all the above books are available for free download from our church website at **apcwo.org/books**. Many of these books are also available in other languages. To request your free copy of these books, please send an email to **bookrequest@apcwo.org**
*Available only as PDF

Also visit our church website for free Audio and Video sermons, Sermon notes (**apcwo.org/sermons**), and many other resources you can use.

About All Peoples Church

At All Peoples Church (APC), our vision is to be salt and light in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of India and to the nations of the world.

At APC, we are committed to presenting the complete, uncompromised Word of God in the anointing and demonstration of His Holy Spirit. We believe that good music, creative presentations, brilliant apologetics, contemporary ministry techniques, latest technology, and so on, can never substitute the God-ordained approach of proclaiming the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Hebrews 2:3-4). Our theme is Jesus, our content is the Word, our method is Holy Spirit power, our passion is people, and our goal is Christlike maturity.

With our main base in Bangalore, All Peoples Church has several other church locations in India. To get a current listing and contact information of All Peoples Church locations, please visit our website at **www.apcwo.org/locations** or send an email to **contact@apcwo.org**.

DO YOU KNOW THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus did many miracles on the Earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame to walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step into our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, *"***For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).** Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world when He died on the cross. Then, three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and then went back into heaven.

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him whole-heartedly.

"… through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43).

… "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, you shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins.

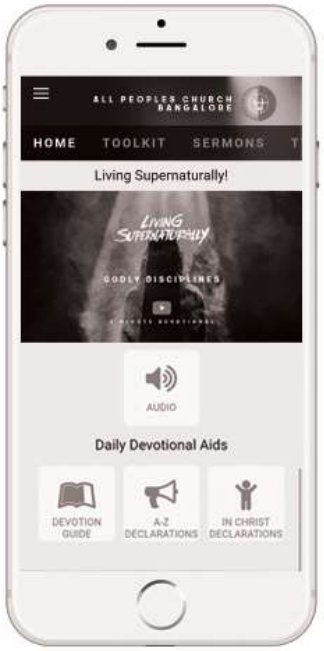
Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP!

Search for
"All Peoples Church Bangalore"
in the App or Google play stores.

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play



A daily 5-minute video devotional.
A daily Bible reading and prayer guide.
5-minute Sermon summary.
Toolkit with Scriptures on various topics to build faith and information to share the Gospel.
Resources with sermons, sermon notes, TV programs, books, music and more.

IF YOU LOVE IT, TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT!

All Peoples Church Bible College
apcbiblecollege.org

All Peoples Church Bible College and Ministry Training Center (APC-BC), in Bangalore, India, provides Spirit-filled, anointed, hands-on training and equipping for ministering in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit along with doctrinally sound and intellectually stimulating study of God's Word. We believe in developing the whole person for ministry emphasizing godly character, deep roots in the Word of God, and powerful demonstrations of signs, wonders, and miracles—all flowing out of an intimate relationship with the Lord.

At APC-BC in addition to sound teaching we emphasize the love of God in demonstration, the anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural work of God. Several young men and women have been trained and sent out to fulfill God's call over their lives.

We offer three programs:

- One-year Certificate in Theology and Christian Ministry (C.Th.)
- Two-year Diploma in Theology and Christian Ministry (Dip.Th.)
- Three-year Bachelor's in Theology and Christian Ministry (B.Th.)

Classes are held each weekday, **Monday to Friday from 9:00am-1pm**. Day scholars, working professionals, and homemakers can attend these classes and continue with their workday after 1pm. Separate hostel facilities are available for men and women who desire to be residential students. Students participate in field work, special seminars, prayer and worship times in the afternoon sessions, each weekday from 2pm-5pm. The afternoon sessions are optional for day scholars (non-residential students). All students are encouraged to serve at one or more local churches over the weekends.

To **apply online**, and for more information about the college, curriculum, eligibility criteria, tuition costs and to download the application form, please visit: **apcbiblecollege.org**

APC-BC is accredited by the Nations Association for Theological Accreditation (NATA).

"Ancient Landmarks" is a message I have been carrying in my heart for some time, which I am now sharing with you through this book. This is probably the kind of message that I would preach as one of my final messages, when passing on the baton to the next generation that would continue the race from where I leave.

The world is changing. What worked yesterday, may not work today! We need to adapt to the new world. We need to present eternal truths using symbols and language that are part of the culture of the new world. And yet there are dangers in doing so, that we must be aware of. We cannot take things randomly from culture and use them to communicate timeless truths. We cannot compromise on ancient landmarks in our effort to use, engage and employ the culture of the new world.

There are some winds of change that are blowing, which we need to **adjust and adapt** our sails to and go where the wind is blowing, lest we get left behind and become disconnected from the present new world. And then, there are some winds of change that are blowing in a direction that would make us cross sacred boundaries and lose godly traditions. We must learn to **navigate through** these winds of change, using the ancient landmarks to anchor us through the storms.

STAY WITH THE BIBLE. The Bible IS our Ancient Landmark!

Ashish Raichur

All Peoples Church & World Outreach
319, 2nd Floor, 7th Main, HRBR Layout,
2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore 560 043
Karnataka, INDIA

Phone: +91-80-25452617
Email: contact@apcwo.org
Website: apcwo.org